



Billing Code 3410-15

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

October 9, 2012

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection

of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Rural Utilities Service

TITLE: 7 CFR 1703, Subparts D, E, F, and G, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0572-0096

SUMMARY OF COLLECTION: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is a credit agency of the Department of Agriculture and is authorized by Chapter 1 of subtitle D of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990. The purpose of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program is to improve telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals and rural residents.

NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION: The various forms and narrative statements required are collected from eligible applicants that are public and private, for-profit and not-for-profit rural community facilities, schools, libraries, hospitals, and medical facilities. The purpose of this information is to determine such factors as: eligibility of the applicant; the specific nature of the proposed project; the purposes for which loan and grant funds will be used; project financial and technical feasibility; and compliance with the applicable laws and regulations.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 210

FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion

TOTAL BURDEN HOURS: 12,788

Rural Utilities Service

TITLE: 7 CFR Part 1703-H, Deferments of RUS Loan Payments for Rural Development Projects

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0572-0097

SUMMARY OF COLLECTION: Subsection (b) of section 12 of the Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 912), a Rural Utilities Service (RUS) electric or telephone borrower may defer the payment of principal and interest on any insured or direct loan made under the RE Act and invest under certain conditions the deferred amounts in rural development projects. The Deferment program is used to encourage borrowers to invest in and promote rural development and rural job creation projects that are based on sound economic and financial analyses.

NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION: RUS will collect information to determine eligibility; specific purposes for which the deferment amount will be utilized; the term of the deferment the borrower will receive; the cost of the total project and degree of participation in the financing from other sources; verification that the purposes will not violate limitations established in 7 CFR 1703-H. If the information were not collected, RUS would be unable to determine eligibility for a project.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS: Not-for-profit; Business or other for-profit

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 1

FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion

TOTAL BURDEN HOURS: 11

Rural Utilities Service

TITLE: 7 CFR Part 1721, Extensions of Payments of Principal and Interest

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0572-0123

SUMMARY OF COLLECTION: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) electric program provides loans and loan guarantees to borrowers at interest rates and on terms that are more favorable than those generally available from the private sector. Procedures and conditions which borrowers may request extensions of the payment of principal and interest are authorized, as amended, in Section 12 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, and Section 236 of the “Disaster Relief Act of 1970. As a result of obtaining federal financing, RUS borrowers receive economic benefits that exceed any direct economic costs associated with complying with (RUS) regulations and requirements.

NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION: The collection of information occurs only when the borrower requests an extension of principal and interest. Eligible purposes include financial hardship, energy resource conservation loans, renewable energy project, and contributions-in-aid of construction. The collections are made to provide needed benefits to borrowers while also maintaining the integrity of RUS loans and their repayment of taxpayer’s monies.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS: Not for-profit institutions

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 45

FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES: Reporting: On occasion

TOTAL BURDEN HOURS: 424

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